

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RETRIEVING AND DISPLAYING
PAGING MESSAGES

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EE19712219745
Express Mail Label No.

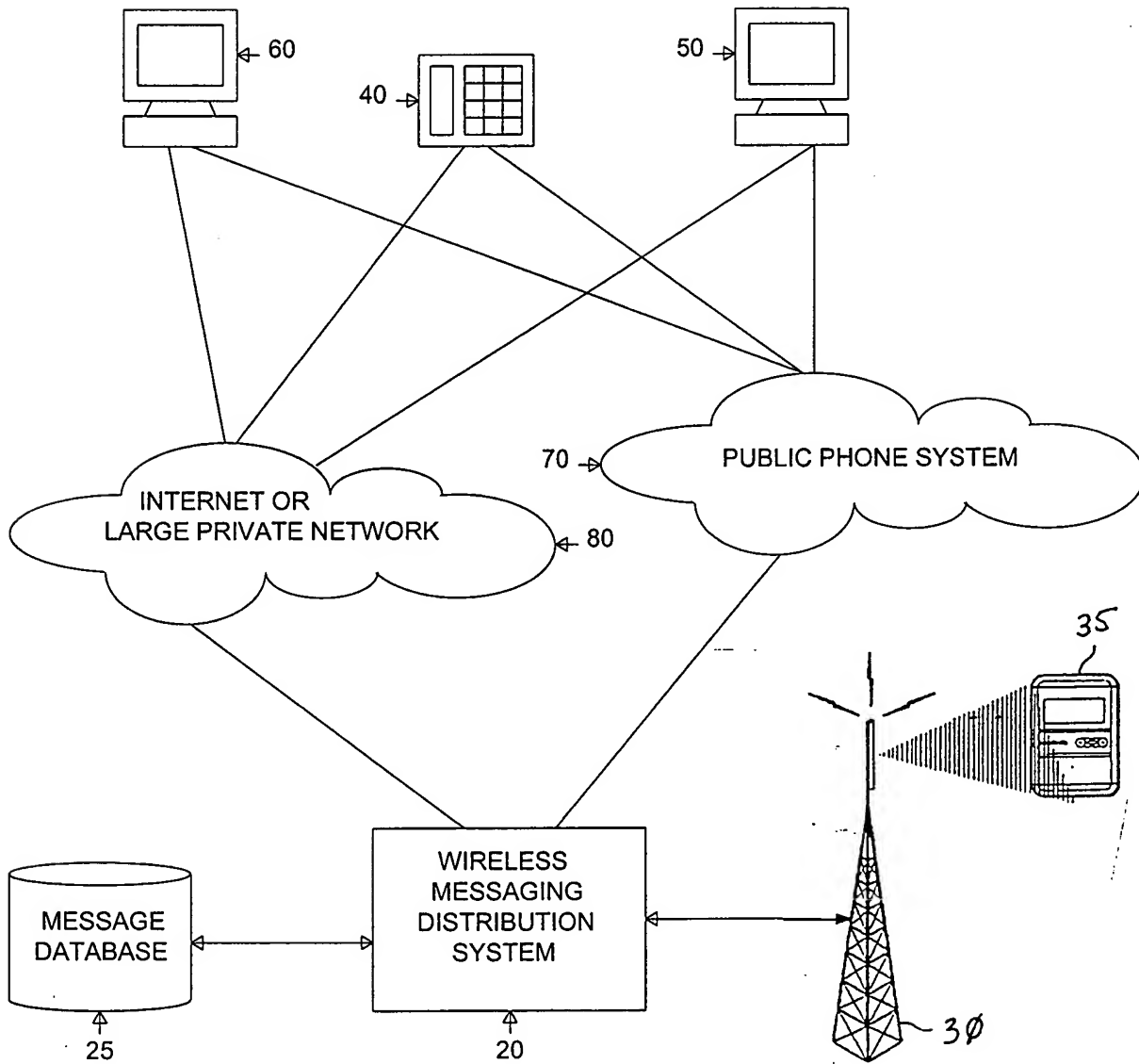


FIGURE 1

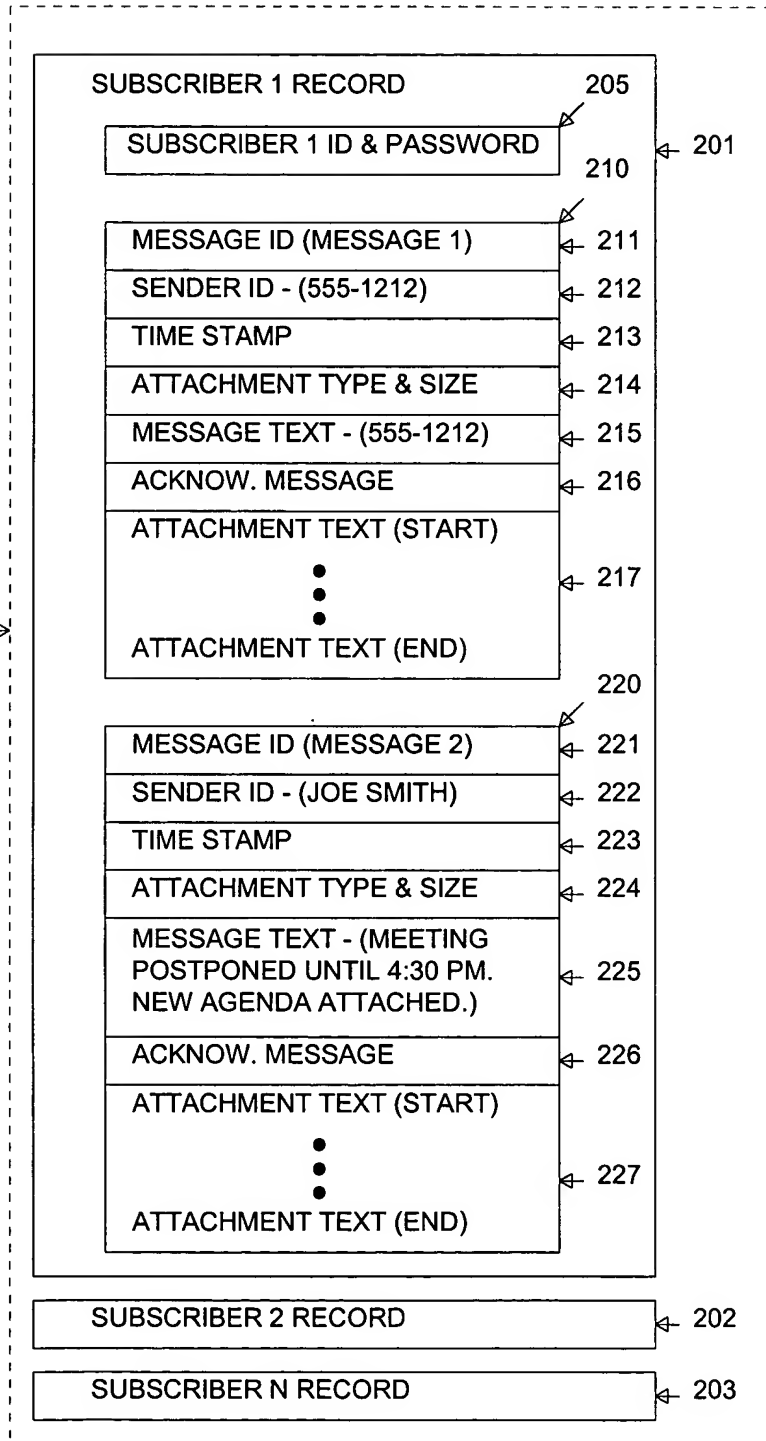


FIGURE 2

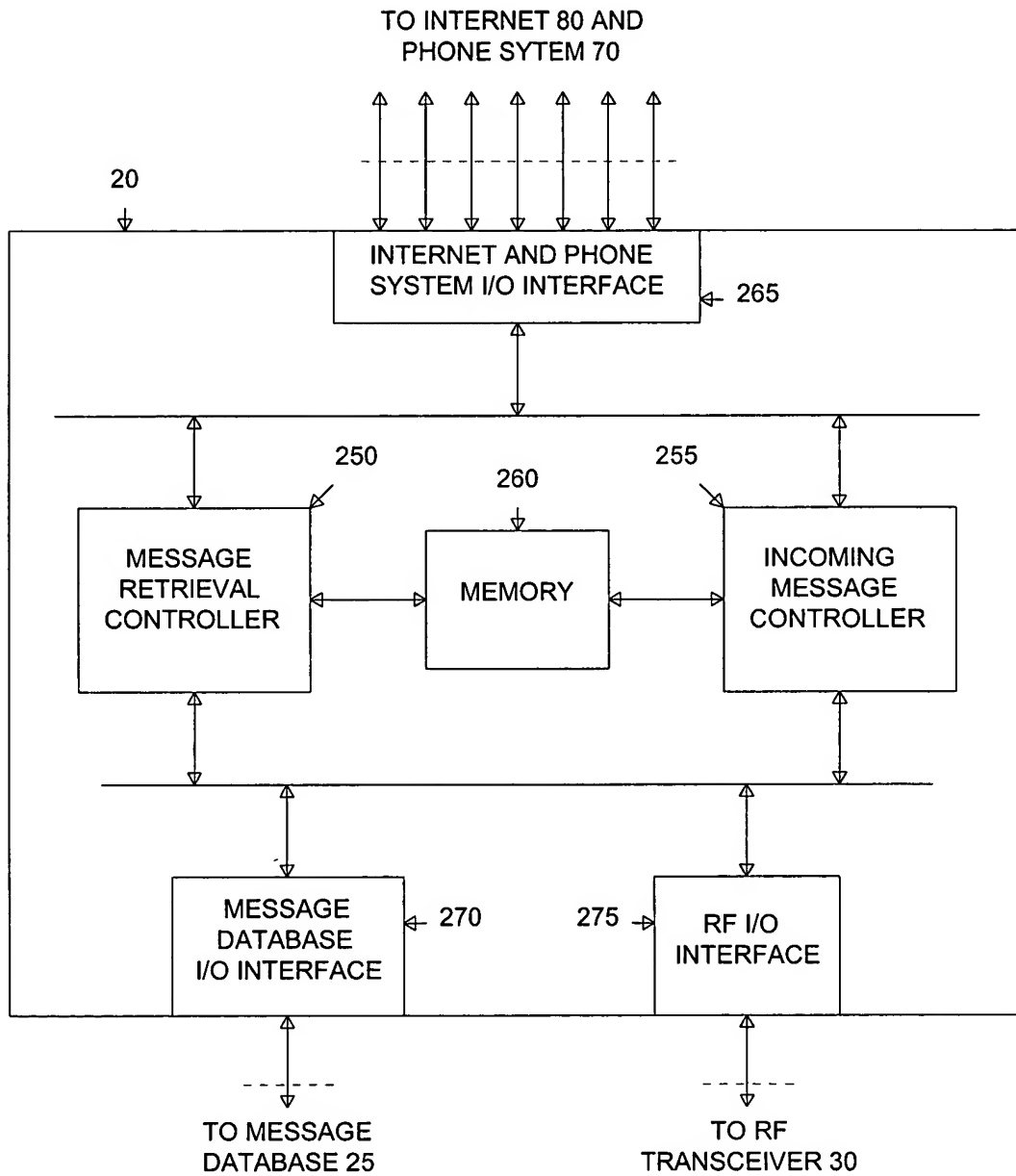


FIGURE 3

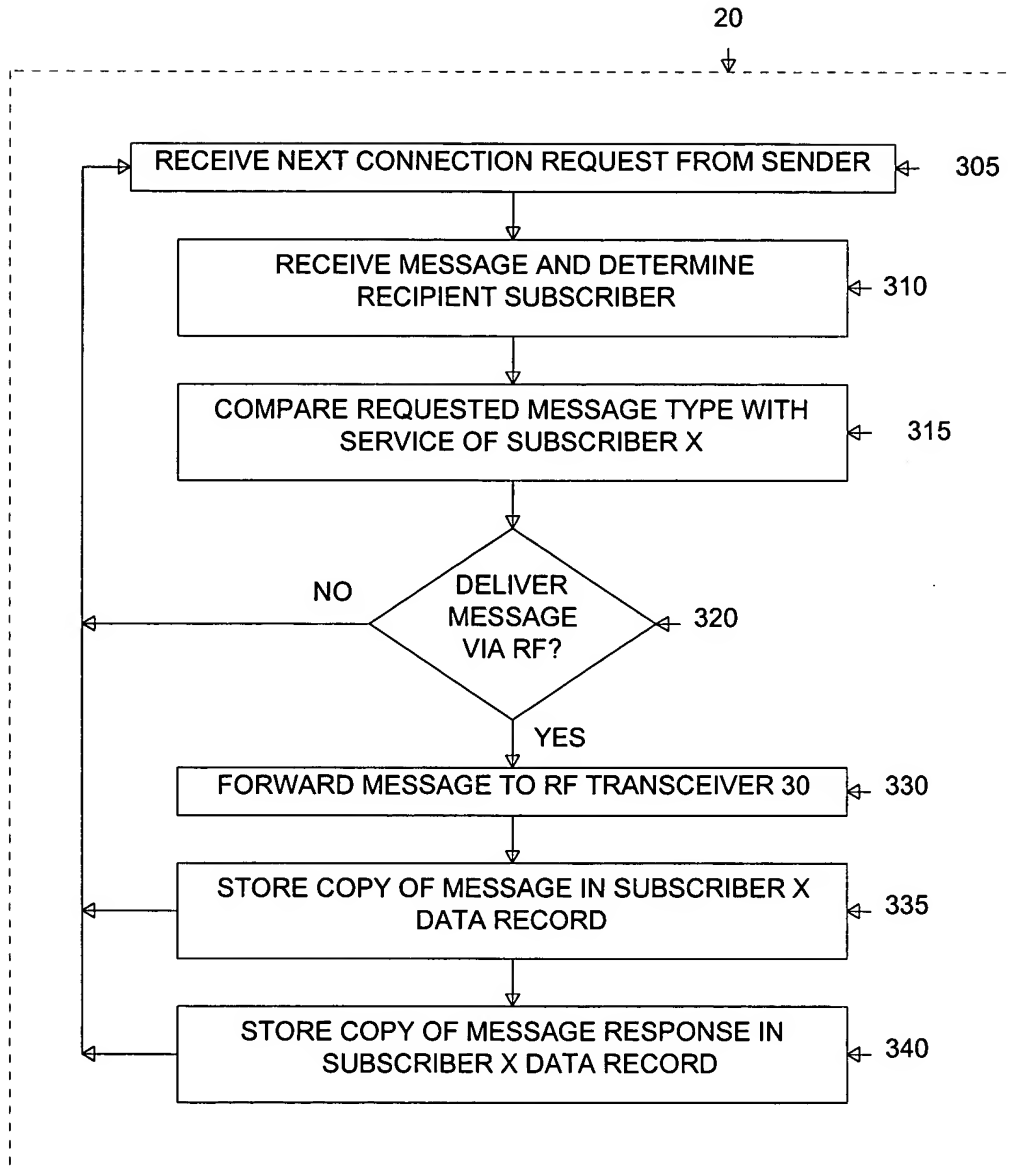


FIGURE 4

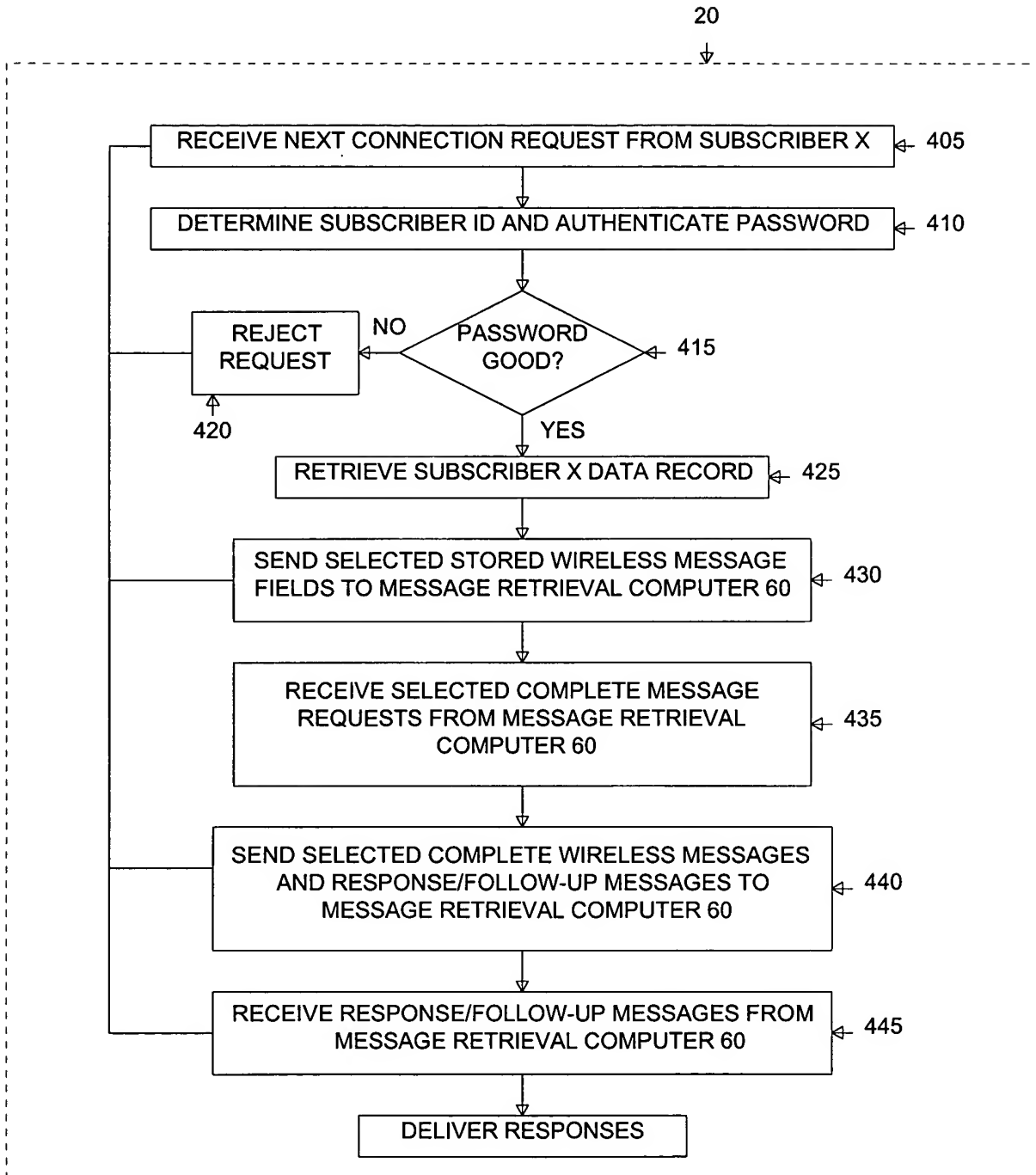


FIGURE 5

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RETRIEVING AND DISPLAYING
PAGING MESSAGES****TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

5 The present invention is directed, in general, to wireless
messaging systems and methods of operating the same, and, in
particular, to a system and method for retrieving and displaying
paging messages.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The demand for better and cheaper wireless telecommunication
services and equipment continues to grow at a rapid pace. Part of
this demand includes wireless message paging devices, which have
become ubiquitous in society. Traditional one-way wireless message
receiving devices (or "pagers") are giving way to newer two-way
message paging devices. Additionally, the types of messages that
15 may be sent to a pager have expanded from short telephone number
messages to include longer alphanumeric messages, faxes, graphics,
e-mail, and even voice messages. In some systems, wireless

messages may comprise an alphanumeric or voice message to which an electronic file, such as a text document, may be attached

Despite the wider use of higher precision electronics, the implementation of time division multiple access (TDMA), frequency
5 division multiple access (FDMA), and code division multiple access (CDMA) technologies, and the advent of narrow band PCS services, traditional problems associated with wireless messaging still persist. Message pages are frequently not delivered to a subscriber. Part of the reason for this is that the subscriber may occasionally turn off the subscriber's message paging device. But
10 it is also true that RF signal obstructions, RF noise and multipath delay fading are significant hindrances to wireless messaging systems.

A number of technologies and/or services have attempted to
15 overcome problems associated with the non-delivery of wireless messages. In some systems, a subscriber may call into a service by telephone and recall the last message page sent to the subscriber's paging device. The subscriber may then request that the last message be re-broadcast to the subscriber's paging device. If the
20 subscriber is out of range, this service has no benefit.

Alternatively, the subscriber may request that the last message page be automatically converted to speech and played to the

subscriber over the phone. The reliability of this service is limited, however, if an alphanumeric page is sent in a different language than is understood by the system or if unusual speech or non-traditional abbreviations are used in the message. In still
5 other systems, undelivered message pages may be sent to the subscriber by means of an e-mail system. This type of system requires the subscriber to maintain an e-mail account and is of limited use in listening to voice messages.

Therefore, there exists a need in the art for an improved wireless communication system that allows a paging subscriber to accurately track all of the wireless messages sent to the subscriber. In particular, there exists a need in the art for an improved wireless message distribution system that maintains a database containing all of the wireless messages sent to system subscribers and allows those subscribers to access those messages
10 at will. More particularly, there exists a need in the art for an improved wireless message distribution system that allows a subscriber to retrieve from a database and display in a convenient format on a computer screen (or listen to in a convenient audio
15 format) selected wireless messages sent to the subscriber, including both delivered and undelivered messages.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The limitations inherent in the prior art described above are overcome by an improved message distribution system, for use in a wireless messaging system, that is capable of allowing a subscriber of the wireless messaging system to review stored wireless messages sent to the subscriber. The message distribution system comprises: 1) a first I/O interface capable of receiving a message retrieval request from the subscriber; and 2) a message retrieval controller coupled to the first I/O interface capable of determining an identity of the subscriber from identification data contained in the message retrieval request, retrieving a data record associated with the subscriber, the data record containing one or more of the stored wireless messages, and transferring to the subscriber one or more selected portions of at least one of the stored wireless messages.

15 In one embodiment of the present invention, the message distribution system further comprises a database coupled to the message distribution system that is capable of storing the stored wireless messages.

20 In another embodiment of the present invention, the message distribution system requires the subscriber to enter a password

prior to transferring to the subscriber the one or more selected portions of the at least one of the stored wireless messages.

In still another embodiment of the present invention, the first I/O interface is capable of receiving a wireless message directed to the subscriber.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the message distribution system further comprises a second I/O interface capable of sending the received wireless message to an RF transceiver facility operable to transmit the received wireless message to a paging device of the subscriber.

According to a further embodiment of the present invention, the message distribution system further comprises an incoming wireless message controller capable of determining an identity of the subscriber from identification data contained in the received wireless message.

According to a still further embodiment of the present invention, the message distribution system is capable of receiving from the RF transceiver facility a response message responsive to a transmission of the received wireless message to the paging device.

According to a yet further embodiment of the present invention, the message retrieval request is received from a public

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telephone system. In an alternate embodiment of the present invention, the message retrieval request is received from a wide area data network.

5 The foregoing SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION outlines, rather broadly, some advantageous features of various embodiments of the present invention so that those of ordinary skill in the art may better understand the DETAILED DESCRIPTION that follows. Additional features of the invention will be described hereafter that form the subject matter of the CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION. Those of ordinary skill in the art should appreciate that they can readily use the disclosed invention and specific embodiments as a basis for designing or modifying other structures for carrying out the same purposes of the present invention. Those of ordinary skill in the art should also realize that such equivalent constructions do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention in its broadest form.

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20 Before undertaking the DETAILED DESCRIPTION, it may be advantageous to set forth definitions of certain words and phrases used throughout this patent document: the terms "include" and "comprise," as well as derivatives thereof, mean inclusion without limitation; the term "or," is inclusive, meaning and/or; the phrases "associated with" and "associated therewith," as well as derivatives thereof, may mean to include, be included within,

interconnect with, contain, be contained within, connect to or with, couple to or with, be communicable with, cooperate with, interleave, be a property of, juxtapose, be proximate to, be bound to or with, have, have a property of, or the like; and the term "controller" means any device, system or part thereof that controls at least one operation, such a device may be implemented in hardware, firmware or software, or some combination of at least two of the same. It should be noted that the functionality associated with any particular controller may be centralized or distributed, whether locally or remotely. Definitions for certain words and phrases are provided throughout this patent document, those of ordinary skill in the art should understand that in many, if not most instances, such definitions apply to prior, as well as future uses of such defined words and phrases.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of the present invention, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like numbers designate like objects and in which:

FIGURE 1 illustrates a representative portion of a message paging network in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 illustrates representative subscriber data records in a message database in the message paging network in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 3 illustrates an exemplary wireless messaging distribution system according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 4 is a flow diagram illustrating a wireless message receipt and forwarding operation of a representative wireless messaging distribution system in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention; and

FIGURE 5 is a flow diagram illustrating a wireless message retrieval operation of a representative wireless messaging